



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

June 13, 2002

Dear Senators Conrad and Dorgan, and Representative Pomeroy:

Since September 11, America faces a new hostile environment. Today, we find ourselves confronted with an unprecedented type of warfare, which requires us to engage in an aggressive offensive to combat terrorism, both at home and abroad. In providing for our nation's domestic security it is clear that we must restructure government to more effectively meet the challenge of terrorism.

President Bush's initiative to create the Department of Homeland Security is both farsighted and necessary. America clearly needs an agency whose principal mission is to protect the American Homeland. Formation of one agency to secure our people, borders and critical infrastructure, as well as for managing our security assets, is a critical part of our homeland security strategy.

Homeland security has until now been dispersed among over 100 entities, none of which is primarily dedicated to homeland security. Considering the nature and variety of threats posed by terrorist organizations, a unified strategy for defending America makes good sense.

As you know, the new Department of Homeland Security would be organized into four divisions: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Countermeasures; and Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. This organizational structure provides a logical, comprehensive and coherent framework for securing the safety of our nation. The new department would provide better analysis, coordination, and resource management. Moreover, the new department would help states better assist homeland security from the standpoint of accountability, information and resources.

One of the most important jobs we have is to protect and defend the American people, and I support the President's initiative to create a new Department of Homeland Security. I also ask you to join me, on behalf of North Dakota, in supporting the President's initiative to create a Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven
Governor